

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02 IGA-01 /078 W

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P R 131055Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9170

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN, PK, QUXS

SUBJECT: INDIAN CHARGES OF PAK BELLICOSITY

REF: A. STATE 55557

B. STATE 52784

1. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT ONE PARTICULAR STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO WHICH MAY HAVE TRIGGERED MRS. GANDHI'S AND FORMIN CHAVAN'S REMARKS THAT PAKISTAN IS MORE BELLICOSE

SINCE LIFTING OF US ARMS EMBARGO CONTAINED IN LEW SIMONS' ARTICLE IN MARCH 6 WASHINGTON POST. TEXT OF ARTICLE FURNISHED US BY USIA CONTAINS LEAD SENTENCE "PAKISTAN WOULD CONSIDER GOING TO WAR AGAIN OVER THE DISPUTED STATE OF KASHMIR ONLY IF INDIA REJECTED ALL EFFORTS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT." ANOTHER ARTICLE WHICH MIGHT HAVE CAUSED INDIAN CONCERN WAS THE MARCH 8 ACCOUNT, TAKEN FROM AFP, IN BALTIMORE SUN (REF B) WHICH REPORTED PAK INTEREST IN THE F-5 AIRCRAFT.

2. IN ADDITION, WHILE PAPER NO DOUBT PUBLISHED AFTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GANDHI AND CHAVAN SPOKE ON MARCH 10, INDIANS MIGHT NOW

ALSO POINT TO ANOTHER SIMONS' ARTICLE IN MARCH 10 WASHINGTON POST, BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH BHUTTO AND TIKKA KHAN, WHICH DEALS WITH THE PAK ARMS SHOPPING LIST.(

TIKKA REPORTEDLY TOLD SIMONS THAT PAKS WOULD LIKE TO BUY, INTER ALIA, M-60 TANKS, F-5 AIRCRAFT, AND SUB-MARINES, ALL OF WHICH COULD BE CALLED OFFENSIVE WEAPONS. HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW IF PAKS COULD AFFORD SUCH WEAPONS.

3. IN ADDITION TO ITEMS CITED ABOVE, INDIAN CONCERNS THAT PAKS INCREASINGLY AGGRESSIVE OF LATE MAY IN PART REFLECT THEIR INTERPRETATION OF THE FOLLOWING: FEBRUARY CRACKDOWN ON MAIN PAK OPPOSITION PARTY (NAP); GOP'S CHARGE THAT AFGHANISTAN INVOLVED IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN FRONTIER PROVINCE (INCLUDING, OF COURSE, THAT THEY SHARE IN BLAME FOR KILLING NWFP MINISTER SHERPAO); AND, THEREAFTER, SUGGESTIONS BY SOME GOP OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS THAT GOP RETALIATE FOR WHAT THEY SEE AS AFGHAN INVOLVEMENT IN PAK INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. WE HAVE GIVEN ABOVE SUCH ITEMS AS WE CAN THINK OF THAT THE INDIANS MIGHT SEIZE ON TO JUSTIFY THEIR CON-TENTION THAT BHUTTO HAS BECOME MORE BELLICOSE SINCE THE ARMS EMBARGO WAS LIFTED. HOWEVER, OUR GENERAL FEELING IS THAT THIS INDIAN CHARGE IS PROBABLY BASED MORE ON WHAT THEY HAVE EXPECTED TO HAPPEN THAN WHAT HAS IN FACT HAPPENED.

5. IN FACT, BHUTTO, BOTH IN HIS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS IN WASHINGTON AND SINCE HIS RETURN HERE, HAS BEEN SAYING, ON THE MOST PART, MANY OF WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE THE RIGHT THINGS. HE HAS TAKEN THE LINE BOTH PUBLICLY AND BEFORE OUR CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES THAT BECAUSE PAKISTAN IS NOW NO MORE THAN THE SIZE OF ONE OF INDIA'S PROVINCES, IT COULD NOT POSSIBLY THINK ANY MORE IN TERMS OF A BALANCE OF FORCES WITH INDIA, THUS ANY IDEA OF AN ARMS RACE IS COMPLETELY IMPRACTICAL AND UNREALISTIC.

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6. FURTHER, BHUTTO WROTE TO INDIRA GANDHI ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE AFTER RETURNING TO PAKISTAN, AND, IN A CON-CILIATORY MANNER, NOTED HIS REGRET THAT PUBLIC REACTION HAD BEEN SO ADVERSE IN INDIA AND STRESSED HIS CONTINUED HOPES AND RESOLVE THAT, UNDER THE SIMLA PROCESS, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD BE INCREASINGLY IMPROVED.

7. OUR REVIEW OF ALL OF BHUTTO'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS  
WITHIN THE PAST MONTH, INCLUDING THE IMPORTANT TELEVISION  
APPEARANCE MARCH 10 WHICH WAS DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO  
FOREIGN POLICY, TURNS UP NOTHING WHICH WE WOULD CHARACTERIZE  
AS BRAVADO RESULTING FROM A RECENT FOREIGN POLICY  
VICTORY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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